

**TEXAPONIUM, A NEW GENUS FOR *CRYPTADIUS TRIPLEHORNII*
BERRY (COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE)**

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Abstract.—A new genus, *Texaponium*, is described for *Cryptadius triplehornii* Berry. The shape of the prosternum, scutellum, and lateral elytron provide the important distinguishing characters.

In the course of a revisionary study of *Cryptadius* LeConte, it became apparent to me that *C. triplehornii* Berry differs from the other species in the genus to a degree that requires its elevation to a separate genus. Berry's (1974) figures and original description of *triplehornii* accurately distinguish this unique species from the other forms of *Cryptadius*. These characters include the finely punctate, almost granular surface of the frontovertex and pronotal disc, vs the coarse punctation of the other species; the long dense epipleural setae, vs short and sparse or setae absent; the minute and sharply pointed scutellum, vs the larger and rounded scutellum (figures in Berry, 1974); and the overall small size (4.7–5.4 mm length) and convexity of *C. triplehornii*. In addition, although Berry mentioned that the lateral elytra were markedly convex, he failed to emphasize the difference between this species and other *Cryptadius*. While the epipleural carina is present in all species, in *Cryptadius* the epipleural fold is strongly developed so that it divides the lateral elytra basally into distinctly dorsal and ventral surfaces. In *triplehornii* the epipleural fold is so weak that the elytra laterally are nearly continuously convex. Another important character unnoticed, or at least not mentioned by Berry, is that the prosternum is quite distinct in *triplehornii*. Behind the procoxae the prosternum is produced into a tumescent keel with an angular apex. In *Cryptadius* the prosternum is not produced but is strongly declivent behind the coxae, follows their contour, and has its apex broadly rounded.

Based on these distinctive characters I erect a new genus, *Texaponium*, for *triplehornii*, and provide the following diagnosis for its separation from the other genera in the tribe Eurymetopini.

***Texaponium*, NEW GENUS**

Type species.—*Cryptadius triplehornii* Berry.

Diagnosis.—A eurymetopine without hind wings; body strongly oval, convex. Protibiae strongly produced at apex. Supraorbital carina present. Scutellum minute, triangular. Epipleural fold obsolescent basally, epipleural carina present at base but elytra nearly continuously convex laterally, not folded. Prosternum produced behind coxae into tumescent, wedge-shaped keel with angular apex.

Cryptadius spp. are found on the sandy coastal strands of California, the Baja California peninsula, and the gulf coast of Sonora. Their true affinities among the Eurymetopini seem to lie with *Telaponium* and *Stictodera*, genera with which it

is sympatric on the Baja peninsula. *Texaponium triplehorni* was described from Big Bend National Park, Texas, and is so far known only from that locality. Berry (1974) gives further notes on the habitat. *Cryptadius* and *Texaponium* are fossorial and found in loose, sandy substrates. It is likely that the convexity of the body and the spatulate protibiae are adaptations to this habitat and may be convergent in character, rather than indicative of close relationship.

The tribe Eurymetopini contains a group of tightly knit genera, some of which are distinguished by rather subtle characters (key in Arnett, 1971). In some cases the genera are separated by the relative lengths of the tarsomeres, or even the length of the tarsal setae. *Texaponium* and *Cryptadius* will key to couplet 5 in Arnett (1971) along with *Telaponium*. The shape of the prosternum will separate *Texaponium* from both genera.

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